

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Nevada Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Heath Austin Kelly while in the service of his country.

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Heath A. Kelly was a native of Kenner, Louisiana, and a graduate of John Curtis Christian School in 1994 and Norwich University in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly began his career as an active duty field artillery officer in the United States Army in 1998 and distinguished himself during that period of service when he was deployed to Iraq from 2004 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly returned to the civilian ranks in 2005, settling down and starting family life with his wife, Tracy, and was soon joined by his daughter, Kassidy; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly returned to military duty in 2007 when he became a member of the Nevada National Guard, and where he served as Battalion Administrative Officer for the 991st Troop Command and later as a Major of the Joint Force Headquarters in Carson City, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly found his family expanding again in 2011 with the arrival of his son, Tristan, and he knew the joy of love of family, community, country and God; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly was thirty-five years old when he and two other Nevada National Guardsmen stopped at the International House of Pancakes in Carson City on September 6, 2011, to have breakfast; and

WHEREAS, it may never be known or fully understood why, but a troubled person entered the restaurant at that same time and opened fire with a weapon, taking the lives of the three soldiers and one other civilian patron; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Kelly brought devastation to his family, friends, and fellow guardsmen, but all who knew him realized that his life had been a full one and what an honor it had been to know him; and

WHEREAS, his decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Kuwait Defense Service Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Nevada National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Heath Austin Kelly for their immeasurable loss and his service and sacrifice for his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Lieutenant Colonel Kelly's wife, Tracy, and his parents.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE